

## END OF THE YEAR REVIEW — 2020

As violence spirals upward in Latin America and inequality continues to prevail, investigating the problem and shaping public impact remains an urgent and compelling priority among social scientists focused on the region. To carry out the Lab's mission of developing methodologically-innovative, evidence-based research, we partner with government agencies and police, public policy and civil society organizations, and a network of academic researchers to produce and disseminate new knowledge on the causes and consequences of poverty, violence and poor governance. The Lab sustained an active year of research activities, publishing and other research products, and teaching and training coursework and mentorship.

### Research Activities

In spite of the pandemic, 2020 was a research-intensive year for the Lab as we completed a range of field surveys for the final year of our U.S. State Department grant, "Police Professionalization and Citizen Trust in Mexico." Our work encompassed in-depth analysis of data from publicly-available sources, GIS mapping, web and print media, and our own collection of original field research. In the field, we studied two divergent regions of Mexico with unique approaches to policing: the *autodefensas*, or private militias, in Michoacán and *usos y costumbres*, or indigenous customary law, in Oaxaca. We also accessed Mexico's prodigious public databases to identify factors influencing citizens' views of public security and policing across the country. And we conducted state-by-state evaluation of the impact of a nationwide police professionalization program, *Certificado Unico Policial*, enacted by Mexico's Secretary of Public Security. As we conclude the work on our U.S. State Department grant, we are completing reports, writing papers, and sharing our findings with our partners and the public.

We also initiated additional streams of research in 2020 to explore salient social impacts that grow out of settings of poverty and violence. We initiated baseline work on the potential benefits of a well-administered temporary visa program for agricultural workers, working with PhD candidates Luis Rodriguez and Alice Wang. We launched plans for a program evaluation that revisits the positive social impact of youth empowerment initiatives in the Rio favelas — and whether it achieve similar results in Mexico with Stephanie Gimenez Stahlberg (MA, Education), a PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins. And we are conducting a review of gender-based violence across the world with the aim of attracting funding to support an ambitious effort to study the effect of violence against women on a global scale with PhD candidates Madison Dalton and Sarah Thompson.

### Research Papers, Reports and Training Curricula

Two peer-reviewed papers by lead author Beatriz Magaloni were published by the *American Political Science Review* in 2020, "Institutionalized Police Brutality: Torture, the Militarization of Security, and the Reform of Inquisitorial Criminal Justice in Mexico," co-authored by Luis Rodriguez, and "Killing in the Slums: The Problems of Social Order, Criminal Governance, and

Police Violence in Rio de Janeiro” co-authored by Edgar Franco, (PhD, Political Science), currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan, and Vanessa Melo (MA, Latin American Studies), a PhD candidate at UCLA. A third paper, “Legislatures and Policy Making in Authoritarian Regimes,” was also published this year in *Comparative Political Studies*.

Public health issues in the face of the pandemic was a key focus of two publications by the Lab’s core faculty member, Alberto Diaz-Cayeros, who published several pieces in the popular Mexican monthly, *Gatopardo*, and on Medium.com, covering the inequities of Mexico’s public health system and how the lack of reliable information has devastating effects on the poor and vulnerable.

Finally, the summary report the Lab is preparing for the U.S. State Department cites numerous outputs produced by the grant. They include reports on police and citizen trust, optimal police forces, police surveys, citizen surveys, and the multi-state evaluation of the *Certificado Unico Policial*. They also include design and delivery of new training and curriculum — a public security analyst workshop, an evaluation instructor course, and professional advising for a strategic and tactical spatial analysis certification.

### **Teaching and Training**

Throughout 2020, the Lab supported a talented team of researchers at every level of training. Our research staff included our associate director of research, Gustavo Robles (PhD, Political Science) now at Facebook, and Jonathan Furszyfer, academic program manager and research associate. Trainees include PhD candidate Luis Rodriguez, who has been part of the Lab for several years and co-author of a major peer-review publication in the *American Political Science Review*; Stephanie Gimenez Stahlberg, Ph D candidate at Johns Hopkins; Alice Yiqian Wang, predoctoral fellow in Political Science at Stanford and in Law at Yale; Madison Dalton, predoctoral fellow in Political Science; and Sarah Thompson, predoctoral fellow in Political Science.

Courses taught by Lab director Professor Beatriz Magaloni over the past year include:

- **POLISCI 347G: Governance and Poverty.** Poverty relief requires active government involvement in the provision of public services such as drinking water, healthcare, sanitation, education, roads, electricity and public safety. Failure to deliver public services is a major impediment to the alleviation of poverty in the developing world. This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to examining these issues, bringing together readings from across the disciplines of political science, economics, law, medicine and education to increase understanding of the complex causal linkages between political institutions, the quality of governance, and the capacity of developing societies to meet basic human needs. Conceived in a broadly comparative international perspective, the course will examine cross-national and field-based research projects, with a particular focus on Latin America and Mexico.

- **POLISCI 445C: The Logics of Violence: Rebels, Criminal Groups and the State.** This course explores the logics of violence. The course offers an overview of the literature on civil wars as well as organized violence involving armed groups that do not seek formal state power, such as drug cartels, prison gangs, and paramilitaries. It also explores the many ways in which states engage in violence against their population through repression, torture, and murder.
- **POLISCI 440A: Theories in Comparative Politics.** Theories addressing major concerns in the comparative field including identity, order, regime type, legitimacy, and governance.
- **POLISCI 244A: Authoritarian Politics.** This course offers a thematic approach to the study of authoritarian politics. We will cover the major areas of political science research on authoritarian politics and governance while simultaneously building empirical knowledge about the politics of particular authoritarian regimes. The course will also discuss transitions to democracy as well as authoritarian political tendencies within democratic contexts.
- **POLISCI 349: Directed Reading and Research in Comparative Politics.** Directed reading in Political Science with a focus on comparative politics.
- **POLISCI 209: Curricular Practical Training.** Qualified Political Science students obtain employment in a relevant research or industrial activity to enhance their professional experience consistent with their degree programs.
- **INTNLREL 198: Senior Thesis**
- **PUBLPOL 310: Master of Arts Thesis**
- **POLISCI 802: TGR Dissertation**
- **POLISCI 801: TGR Project**